

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

receiving a multimedia message from a user agent;

setting a first index value of the multimedia message, wherein the first index value is set as a value to identify and discriminate the multimedia message from other multimedia messages, the first index value identifying the multimedia message without identifying any attachments to the multimedia message;

storing the multimedia message having the set first index value in a storage device;

receiving information including a second index value from the user agent, wherein the second index value indicates whether the multimedia message to be forwarded is a new multimedia message or a previously sent multimedia message;

searching whether the multimedia message to be forwarded exists in the storage device based on a comparison of the second index value in the information received from the user agent and the first index value set in the stored multimedia message; and

forwarding the multimedia message produced by the search, wherein, if a storing time of the multimedia message in the storage device elapses, the second index value is set as a value indicating a new multimedia message even though the multimedia message to be forwarded is a previously sent multimedia message.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the first index value is set in a header of the multimedia message.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the information includes an address or telephone number of the receiving side's user agent and the second message.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the second index value is set as a value corresponding to `0` when the multimedia message to be forwarded is a new multimedia message or changed.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the second index value is set as a value corresponding to other than `0` when the multimedia message to be forwarded is a previously sent multimedia message.

6-7 (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
transmitting header information of a multimedia message from a user agent to a server; and

determining an index value of the transmitted header information, wherein the index value indicates whether the multimedia message is a new multimedia message or a previously sent multimedia message, the index value having a first value when the multimedia message is a new multimedia message and a second value when the multimedia message is a previously sent multimedia message;

retrieving a multimedia message having a same index value in a mailbox if the multimedia message is a previously sent multimedia message;

inserting information of a receiving side in the retrieved multimedia message; and

transmitting the multimedia message to a user agent on the receiving side, wherein if a storing time of the multimedia message in the mailbox elapses, the index value is set as a value indicating a new multimedia message even though the multimedia message to be forwarded is a previously sent multimedia message.

9-11 (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the information of the receiving side comprises one of a telephone number and an address of the receiving side.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the index value in the mailbox includes a predetermined bit to discriminate among multimedia messages.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, further comprising
a multimedia server setting the index value to correspond to a value other than a first value in a mailbox.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the index value is set as a value corresponding to '0' when the multimedia message is a new multimedia message or changes.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the index value is set as a value corresponding to other than `0` when the multimedia message is a previously sent multimedia message.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the multimedia message stored in a mailbox has a predetermined storage time set by a multimedia user agent.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, further comprising
automatically deleting the multimedia message stored in the mailbox when the set storing time elapses.

20-25 (Canceled)

26. (Currently Amended) A server comprising:
a receiving device to receive at least an index value of a multimedia message;
a processor to select information to transmit based on the index value, wherein the index value indicates whether the multimedia message is a new multimedia message or a previously received multimedia message, the index value having a first value when the multimedia message is a new multimedia message and a second value when the multimedia message is a previously sent multimedia message; and

a transmitting device to transmit at least the selected information, wherein, if a storing time of the multimedia message stored in the server elapses, the user agent sets the index

value as a value indicating a new multimedia message even through the multimedia message is a previously sent multimedia message.

27. (Original) The server of claim 26, wherein the index value is provided in a header of the multimedia message.

28. (Original) The server of claim 26, wherein the index value comprises a predetermined bit in order to discriminate the multimedia message from other multimedia messages.

29. (Original) The server of claim 26, wherein the processor sets the index value to correspond to `0` when contents of the multimedia message change.

30. (Original) The server of claim 26, wherein the processor sets the index value to correspond to `0` when the multimedia message is deleted from a mailbox.

31. (Original) The server of claim 26, wherein the processor decides to forward the multimedia message from a first user agent to a second user agent based on the received index value.

32. (Original) The server of claim 26, wherein the processor decides to retrieve a multimedia message having a similar index value from a memory based on the determined index value.

33. (Previously Presented) A method for processing a multimedia message comprising:

transmitting one of:

(a) a multimedia message including an index value in a header of the multimedia message, wherein the index value indicates that the multimedia message is a new multimedia message or a changed multimedia message from a previously sent multimedia message, or

(b) only a header of a multimedia message, wherein an index value of the header indicates the multimedia message was a previously sent multimedia message, which has not changed; and

receiving one of the header in (b) or the multimedia message in (a), wherein when only the header in (b) is received, the method further comprises retrieving the multimedia message having a corresponding index value as the received header from a storage device.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33, wherein the index value is set as a '0' when the multimedia message is a new multimedia message or the changed multimedia message.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33, wherein the index value is set other than '0' to discriminate among multimedia messages when the multimedia message is the previously sent multimedia message, which has not changed.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, wherein the index value includes a predetermined bit to discriminate among multimedia messages.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33, forwarding the retrieved multimedia message or forwarding the received multimedia message.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said receiving includes:
receiving header information that includes the index value, the header information received without multimedia information when the index value indicates that the multimedia message is not a changed message or first-sent message.